



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

The school committee is composed of five members, four of whom are elected by the people for four years. Two retire every second year. The member of the council designated as director of education is ex officio a member and chairman of the committee.

The whole plan reveals its Massachusetts origin and could be adopted elsewhere only after substantial modification. The absence of details as to the powers and duties of some of the officers is explained by the fact that this act is intended not as a complete charter but as an amendment to be affixed to an existing charter.

FRANK GREENE BATES.

Municipal Government—New Charter of Cranston, R. I. The charter of Cranston, R. I., which went into operation April 16, 1910, presents a sharp contrast to that proposed by the Economic Club of Brockton, Mass. In its general features the Cranston charter follows a plan which was considered more progressive a half century ago than it is today. In two points, at least, however, the charter is an advance over those already in force in the state:—the appointment of the police is in the hands of the mayor alone, and the council is unicameral.

The council consists of sixteen members elected annually, four from each of the four wards of the city. It is to a large degree the depository, not only of the legislative, but also of the administrative power of the city.

The mayor's duty is to "be vigilant and active in causing the laws of the state and the ordinances of the city to be executed and enforced." To this end he is clothed with magisterial powers. The only trace of real executive authority of the mayor is that he appoints the police officers. But here, even, he is given no specific power of removal. It is true that he has "general supervision of the subordinate officers of the city, and shall cause all neglect or violation of duty by them to be punished," but with such restricted appointing power and no means of administrative discipline, this "general supervision" must remain a rather weak instrument. The mayor presides over the council but has no vote except in case of a tie. His veto, which may extend to single items or sections of an ordinance, may be overridden by the votes of ten councilmen.

The administrative service is selected by a variety of methods. The people elect the treasurer, overseer of the poor and school committee; the council elects the superintendent of health and city physician, surveyor of highways, engineer, judge of probate, collector, auditor,

solicitor, clerk, harbormaster, three assessors, three commissioners of the sinking-fund and all other officers not otherwise provided for; the police force alone are appointed by the mayor. All terms of office are for one year, except the assessors, sinking-fund commissioners and school committee, who hold for three years. The school committee consists of the mayor and two members from each ward.

Throughout the document certain peculiarities due to local conditions are noticeable. The council being a tax-raising and a revenue-expending body, the suffrage for electors of this body is restricted by the state constitution to persons paying a tax on at least one hundred and thirty-four dollars worth of property. The election of overseers of the poor and school committee is the result of the New England custom by which the administration of the poor law and of the schools is by the town or city rather than by the county. The inclusion of a judge of probate is due to the fact, true only in Connecticut and Rhode Island, that probate matters are here a town rather than a county function.

The authors of this charter have, in the main, adhered strictly to precedents found in the vicinity, and have gone on to construct the charter quite oblivious of the progress in municipal organization of the last twenty-five years.

FRANK GREENE BATES.

Ohio: The Legislative Session in. A great number of questions of first-rate importance are engaging the attention of the Ohio general assembly this year. The message of Governor Harmon (Democrat) contained an extensive programme of progressive legislation, which was in the main accepted and supplemented by the republican leaders of both houses. There has been a really remarkable display of disinterested coöperation between both parties in enacting measures of vital importance to the state. Besides legislating on a wide variety of subjects, the general assembly has instituted several important investigations, the most striking being a "graft-probe" of the executive departments under former administrations, resulting already in one important conviction with the probability of others.

ADOPTION OF A CODE. Perhaps the most important legislative achievement of the session will be the adoption of a code, the product of three years of assiduous labor by a commission appointed by Governor Harris in 1907. While charged only with bringing the existing laws into a harmonious and consistent form, the commissioners wisely interpreted their duty liberally and did not hesitate to make numerous changes in